



Citizens Review Board Tampa, Florida Meeting Minutes

The Citizens Review Board of the City of Tampa, Florida convened in a regular session in the City Council Chambers at 6:09 p.m. on this 24th day of January 2023.

The Legal Department was represented by Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle.

The Recording Secretary was Tonia Wilcox, Sr. City Council/City Clerk Support Technician.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Aquil.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Tonia Wilcox conducted a roll call. The following board members were present upon roll call: Rasheed Aquil, Rev. Bartholomew Banks Col. Darryl Reyes, Devon Ingandela and Lincoln Tamayo. Members, Dr. Carolyn Collins, Irene Guy, and Carlos Valdes being absent at roll call.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Aquil requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the November 29, 2022, meeting. A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Reyes. Motion carried 5-0, with Collins, Guy, and Valdes being absent.

V. Public Comment

Chair Aquil asked if there was anyone who signed up for public comment.

There were no written public comments.

VI. Staff and Board Response to Public Comments

There were no board responses to public comments.

IX. CRB Staff Reports and Business (Item moved up on Agenda)

Captain Kimberly Hill approached and provided an update regarding the Tampa Police Department Interview Panel scheduling concerns. Captain Hill stated, TPD is experiencing an abundance of applicants, which is causing the scheduling problems; therefore, TPD is now having to schedule the applicant's interviews for every Tuesday and Thursday to meet the demand. TPD is asking for the members of the Citizens Review Board to sign up and participate on the Interview Panel for 8 hours any Tuesday and Thursday to assist with the applicant overflow.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Hill regarding participation on the interview panel and how much time the board is allowed to provide feedback.

Senior Assistant City Attorney, Michael Schmid approached and distributed to the board the interview panel signup sheet and explained the signup process.

Chair Aquil asked for the record to reflect that member Collins was absent; however, now she is present.

VII. Items to be Reviewed

1. **22F-017: MOR 1005 – Standard of Conduct was sustained; MOR 1102.01 – Abuse of position or identification was sustained. The Chief of Police used her position of authority to solicit the Pinellas Deputy not to issue a citation for a violation of operating an unregistered golf cart on a public roadway. The Chief of police later resigned.**

Captain Patrick Messmer with the Professional Standards Bureau approached and presented the case concerning former chief of police. A traffic stop occurred in Pinellas County for operating a golfcart with no license plate, where the former chief was a passenger. Her husband was stopped by a Pinellas County Deputy for not having the proper license plate displayed on the golfcart. Captain Messmer was asked by Mayor Jane Castor to investigate. Captain Messmer performed research to ensure the Pinellas Sheriff had no additional information relating to the stop. Captain Messmer confirmed that the golfcart was not properly registered in accordance with the Florida Law. A few days later, Captain Messmer met with the Interim Chief of Police, Lee Bercaw and provided his findings of the investigation. Captain Messmer then, conducted an interview with the former chief and she admitted to violating the Department's policies, Regulation MOR 1005-Standard of Conduct and Regulation and MOR 1102.01-The Use of Position of ID. Those findings were sustained by the Interim Chief Bercaw in his disposition letter to Mayor Castor. Based on the findings the mayor asked for the former chief's resignation. The former chief provided her resignation, and the results were sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Messmer regarding what prompted the former chief to contact the mayor 18 days after the incident occurred. Captain Messmer stated, the former chief decided to contact the mayor after she was informed about someone making a request to obtain a video copy of the incident.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Messmer concerning the timeline of the investigation and how quickly it ended.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Messmer regarding the email that was sent by the former chief to the entire police department concerning the residence that she and her husband owns in Pinellas County.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle regarding the residency requirements for the department heads. The topic is going before City Council on February 16, 2023, to be discussed.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Messmer regarding the residency policy for TPD. Captain Messmer stated that TPD does not have a policy and most of the officers live within city limits.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Messmer regarding the former chief being aware of a particular policy, requiring her to report the incident of driving the golf cart outside a residential area to the department. Captain Messmer stated that TPD does have a policy which requires employees to report any type of charge to the department.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Messmer regarding operating golf cart on roadways; should they be registered and if there are specific guidelines for individuals who own and operate golf carts.

Chair Aquil requested a motion. A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Collins, concurring with both findings of sustaining the violations, 22F-017: MOR 1005 and MOR 1102.01. Motion carried 6-0, with, Guy, and Valdes being absent.

VIII. Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

No Community and Tampa Police Department Matters.

X. Items Continued

No items to be continued.

XI. Announcements/New Business

Discussion took place amongst members to discuss tabling the yearly elections to the next CRB meeting, February 28, 2023.

A motion was made by Reyes, seconded by Collins, to table elections to the next CRB meeting, February 28, 2023. Motion carried 6-0, with Guy and Valdes being absent.

Discussion took place amongst members regarding which CRB member will sign up to participate in the video portion of TPD's interview panel on, January 26, 2023. Board member Devon Ingandela offered to cover the video portion of TPD's interview panel.

A motion was made by Collins, seconded by Banks, approving the sign-up list for the CRB members to participate on the interview panel process in person or by video. Motion carried 6-0, with Guy and Valdes being absent.

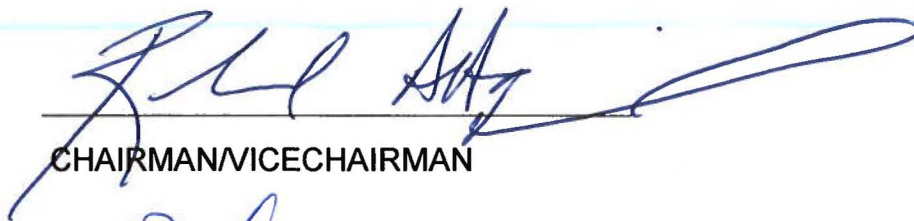
Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle regarding offsite locations for the CRB meetings to be held in Councilmember Orlando Gudes' and Luis Viera's districts. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that she is working on dates and confirming locations with the Councilmembers' legislative aides.

Discussion took place amongst members regarding the residency requirements for the City of Tampa department heads. This topic is going before City Council on February 16, 2023, and Chair Aquil recommended each Citizen Review Board member to attend.

Chair Aquil announced the next meeting will be held on **February 28, 2023 at 6:00pm**, Old City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd, 3rd Floor, and if anyone is not able to attend the meeting to please notify the Clerk at least 48 hours in advance.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Citizens Review Board at this time, said meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m. this 24th day of January 2023.



CHAIRMAN/VICECHAIRMAN



RECORDING SECRETARY



CITY CLERK/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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Meetings on Demand can be viewed on the City of Tampa Meeting – YouTube Channel website at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLzohJmEqvfJOEd4YJNlHbg>